

4/24/81

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 ACTION ARA-16

INFO	OCT-01	ADS-00	AID-07	INR-10	SS-15	CIAE-00	ICA-11
	DODE-00	H-01	NSC-05	NSAE-00	HA-06	PM-09	PA-01
	SP-02	SPRS-02	/086 W				

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P 241430Z APR 81
 FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9212
 INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 USCINCSO QUARRY HTS
 USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify ☐ In Part ☒ In Full☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 2995

CINCSO FOR INTAFF, CINCLANT FOR POLAD

EO 12065: GDS 4/23/87 (FRIEDMAN, TOWNSEND B.) OR-P
 TAGS: SHUM AR
 SUBJECT: MOTHERS AND GOA ON COLLISON COURSE

1. (U) PREDICTABLY, THE ISSUE OF THE DISAPPEARED CONTINUES TO DISTURB ARGENTINE LIFE AND POLITICS. THE MOST RECENT EVIDENCE OF THIS IS THE ANNOUNCED INTENTION OF THE MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO TO HOLD A LARGE GATHERING IN THE BUENOS AIRES SQUARE THAT HAVE THEM THEIR NAME ON APRIL 30. THE MOTHERS HAVE EXTENDED INVITATIONS TO THE ARGENTINE PUBLIC AND TO SYMPATHETIC FOREIGNERS TO JOIN THEM IN THIS AFFAIR, WHICH MARKS THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORGANIZATION'S FIRST MEETING IN THE PLAZA. THE FEDERAL POLICE HAVE NOW ISSUED AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE REMINDING THE MOTHERS THAT THE APRIL 30 GATHERING IS NOT AUTHORIZED AND THAT WITHOUT SUCH AUTHORIZATION IT IS PROHIBITED. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE MOTHERS REITERATED THEIR INTENTION TO GATHER. THUS, THE MOTHERS AND THE POLICE COULD BE ON A COLLISON COURSE.

2. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOWED THE MOTHERS TO HOLD REGULAR SMALL MEETINGS IN THE PLAZA, INCLUDING THE APRIL 23

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GATHERING AT WHICH SEVERAL U.S. REPORTERS WERE BRIEFLY DETAINED.
 THE APRIL 30 MEETING WHICH IS PLANNED AS A LARGER AND MORE PUB-

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LICIZED AFFAIR APPARENTLY EXCEEDS THE GOA'S TOLERANCE. WE BELIEVE THE POLICE'S PROHIBITION IS PROBABLY WHAT THE MOTHERS EXPECTED.

3. [REDACTED] THE MOTHERS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL IN KEEPING THE ISSUE OF THE DISAPPEARED ALIVE. ABROAD, THE MOST RECENT EVIDENCE OF SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN ATTENTION TO THEIR CAUSE WAS A PUBLIC MESSAGE OF SUPPORT (POUCHED ARA/SC) FOR THEM SIGNED BY SEVERAL HUNDRED PROMINENT AND/OR INFLUENTIAL FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING 36 MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS. IN ARGENTINA, MANY PROMINENT ARGENTINE POLITICIANS CONTINUE TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE ISSUE OF THE DISAPPEARED, DEMANDING A CLARIFICATION OF WHAT HAPPENED. INTERESTINGLY, A PROMINENT RIGHT-WING NEWSPAPER POINTEDLY EDITORIALIZED THAT IF THE MILITARY EXPECTED TIME TO TAKE CARE OF THE PROBLEM THEY WERE WRONG, ADDING THAT IF THE "PROCESS" CONTINUES ITS PRESENT DIRECTION, VOICES CALLING FOR A CLARIFICATION OF THE PAST WILL ONLY BECOME LOUDER AND MORE NUMEROUS. SHLAUDEMAN

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